

walk more than 60 miles to Camp O'Donnell in what became known as the Bataan Death March.

For almost three years, despite facing malnutrition, torture, and forced labor, Mr. Rodriguez did his best to provide medical care to his fellow soldiers without the use of proper supplies. He also kept handwritten records of his fellow prisoners, many of whom succumbed to a range of ailments. He was finally liberated and returned to New Mexico in January 1945.

After returning home, Mr. Rodriguez worked for a variety of lumber businesses in the Albuquerque area. Additionally, he served in leadership roles at the Bataan Veterans Organization and the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization. He also met his wife, Elizabeth, and had three children, Mona Lisa, Ralph III, and Charles.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of Mr. Ralph Rodriguez, Jr., and honor Mr. Rodriguez for his valiant service to our country.

RECOGNIZING RUDY GRASSESCHI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rudy Grasseschi, who is celebrating 60 years in business as the owner and operator of the Cobblers shoe store and repair shop in Hayward, California.

Rudy opened Cobblers on June 13, 1958, but the store traces its roots much further back. Rudy's father, who arrived in the Bay Area in 1906 from Italy, sold and fixed shoes elsewhere in Hayward, as Rudy's grandfather had done in Italy. Today, Rudy's sons Dino and Rodney work with him in the store, as does his grandson Kenneth.

For generations of Bay Area residents, Cobblers has been a comforting throwback to the old-world tradition of mixing craftsmanship and fellowship, with Rudy working his restorative magic on all sorts of footwear while dispensing free wisdom and kindness to all who pass through his door.

A Hayward native who lives in nearby Castro Valley with his wife of 61 years, Lois, Rudy has tirelessly given back to his community—he is a director emeritus of the Hayward Area Recreation District Foundation's board, and a lifetime member of the Castro Valley Lions Breakfast Club. Cobblers was honored as the California 20th Assembly District's 2018 Small Business of the Year, and is among the Hayward Chamber of Commerce's oldest members.

At age 82, Rudy says he has no plans to retire. Like a well-made, well-worn, still-sturdy shoe, he remains the right fit for the East Bay.

I rise to congratulate Rudy Grasseschi on achieving six decades as the owner of one of the 15th Congressional District's quintessential businesses, a beloved community institution that continues to serve its customers with the highest degree of quality and care.

IN HONOR OF THE FATHERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Fathers of the Armed Forces, on this coming Fathers Day and their families. Who throughout the generations have selflessly sacrificed for us in the name of freedom. Take time to pause and reflect and give thanks. I ask this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be included in the RECORD.

THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

The Faith of our Fathers,
The Fathers of Freedom,
The Fathers of War,
The men who go off to battle and leave all they adore.
Who throughout the generations, for all of us, fought and died
For our freedom, giving up their arms and legs and so much more
And come home and live with PTS, The Scars of War,
All so we can live in this Nation we adore.
And then there are the ones who aren't coming home anymore.
Who lie in cold quiet graves lost in distant shores,
Who gave That Last Full Measure.
This Father's Day remember all of those who represent America's greatest of treasures,
Our selfless Fathers of Freedom, The Angels adore,
Who with The Faith of Our Fathers fought and died for.
So this Fathers Day, as you sit down to break bread,
With your beloved Father and all that will be said,
Remember there are Fathers all around the world who for us have led,
And died and bled.
Who have wives and precious boys and girls in harms way in sleepless beds,
Who won't be together this day,
As it's The Faith of Our Fathers who lead the way,
On this Fathers Day.
So give thanks and give praise,
And say a prayer for all of those families in anguish who live day to day,
And remember over decades what The Faith of Our Fathers have made
In this Land of The of Free,
in this Home of The Brave,
And what they give and what they gave,
And The Magnificent Faith of Our Fathers on this Fathers Day,
Who pray for peace everyday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 258 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5237. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 259 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 5041. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 260 on Approval of the Journal. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

GARY REYNOLDS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor one of my constituents, Gary Reynolds, a Physics Teacher from the City of Santa Ana.

Mr. Reynolds has been an important figure in the community, not only as a teacher, but also as a mentor to his students at Santa Ana High School for over 31 years. His love for the Sciences and desire to educate the city's youth, Mr. Reynolds has been able to create a career through his teachings in Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Robotics.

After graduating from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1969, Mr. Reynolds became an Infantry Officer at Marine Corps Recruiting from 1969 to 1976. During his time in the Marine Corps, he also served in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971.

Mr. Reynolds is a former Postdoctoral Research Assistant from Louisiana State University and a Research Assistant from University of California, Irvine. Mr. Reynolds received his PhD in Environmental Chemistry at University of California, Irvine, and has studied Cell Physiology and Biochemistry at San Diego State University, and Zoology and Chemistry at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Mr. Reynolds' is dedicated to educating the city's students and has acted as a mentor to all those who may not have had someone who they can look up to. Through the years, he has acted as a mentor and has motivated students to be the best that they could be. Because of his guidance, many of his students have gone on to pursue a higher education.

Mr. Reynolds' tremendous efforts are not left unnoticed and his accolades are well-deserved. More importantly, it is the impact he has made in our community. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Reynolds, and I thank him for his positive impact he has made on the Santa Ana community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at a funeral, I was not present to vote on roll call votes 258 and 259 on June 12th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258, and YEA on Roll Call No. 259.

FROM CONFLICT TO COMPROMISE:
THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND VIETNAM

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, given the recent National History Day contest, I am pleased to include in the RECORD a historical paper written by one of my constituents, Ms. Catherine Kennedy of Columbus, Georgia, entitled "From Conflict to Compromise: The Normalization of Relations Between the United States of America and Vietnam." Catherine is representing Georgia in the Junior Division of the National History Day contest.

The Vietnam War ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in 1973; however, the United States (U.S.) and Vietnam remained hostile for another two decades. After the war, Vietnam stayed aligned with the Soviet Union, while the U.S. treated Vietnam as a hostile power imposing trade embargos, blocking international loans, and refusing to open diplomatic relations. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Vietnam lost Moscow's support for its economy and was left on its own. Within the U.S., there was growing pressure to account for Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA) from the Vietnam War. The hostility and conflict between the two countries turned to compromise in the mid-1990s when both countries needed each other to meet their individual national goals. For the Vietnamese, it was the end to the trade embargo and the normalization of diplomatic relations. For the Americans, it was the resolution of the long standing POW/MIA issue.

The Vietnam War started long before President Lyndon Johnson introduced ground combat troops into South Vietnam in 1965. The war actually started immediately after the defeat of Japan in World War II when communist forces under Ho Chi Minh battled French forces for independence gaining victory in 1954. After the French collapse and withdrawal, Vietnam was divided into North and South Vietnam along the 17th parallel.

Relations between North and South Vietnam continued to deteriorate over the years and the United States, fearing the spread of communism in Asia, introduced advisors and aid to South Vietnam. In 1964, a disputed naval incident in the Gulf of Tonkin led Congress to authorize military action. Before the end of 1967, over 500,000 ground troops were in Vietnam.

By 1973, the Vietnam War seemed unwinnable to Americans. Amid mounting protests at home and facing a war weary public, the United States signed the Paris Peace Accords bringing a ceasefire to the battlefield. At the same time, Hanoi released 591 American POWs during Operation Homecoming. Unfortunately, many American servicemen remained unaccounted for after this release. The fate of these missing servicemen remained an obstacle to normalizing relations between the U.S. and Vietnam for the next twenty years.

After the return of the POWs in 1973, almost 2200 servicemen remained unaccounted for or missing. Most of the missing were in Vietnam, but some were in the neighboring countries of Laos and Cambodia. As the U.S. and Vietnam approached the 20-Year anniversary of the end of the war, pressure mounted in both countries to settle the

issues. Families of the missing in the U.S. put intense political pressure on their government to get the fullest possible accounting for those lost, while factions in Vietnam wanted access to trade and markets in the U.S. to help develop and modernize its economy. Mr. Vu Chi Cong, Chief of Staff, for the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Vietnamese State Department) in discussions with U.S. officials reiterated that the Vietnamese needed help with their economy. Specifically, they wanted access to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank loans, favorable trade status with the United States with access to markets, the ability for U.S. based companies to invest in Vietnam and open factories, access to U.S. construction companies to bid on internal infrastructure projects like the repaving of National Highway 1, and finally, the ability for Vietnamese students to study abroad at American Universities. At no time did the Vietnamese discuss better relationships would counter increased Chinese influence in the region or bring up the disputed Spratly Islands.

These pressures moved the former enemies from conflict to compromise resulting in the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi in August 1995. The cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnam in accounting for the missing between 1992-1995 made compromise possible. By the time the Embassy opened, the list of missing had decreased to 1,615 servicemen. The Vietnamese, by all measures evaluated by the U.S., were fully cooperating in rendering the fullest possible accounting for missing Americans.

The belief in Vietnamese cooperation was fairly new. After the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, many people in the U.S. believed Vietnam still held POWs in secret prison camps throughout the country. As proof, they pointed to random but sensational reports of missing Americans seen in Vietnam. Sensational actions by activists, like Billy Henderson, drew attention to the subject. With these reports of servicemen still being held captive, the National League of Families (NLF) formed to pressure for release of any POW/MIAs still in captivity. The NLF put constant political pressure on the U.S. government to bring our missing home. They kept the issue alive as Vietnam sought to normalize relations with the U.S.

Throughout the years, one question challenged U.S. officials: how could the U.S. measure Vietnamese cooperation on the POW/MIA issue? President George Bush first defined the measures and President Bill Clinton validated them again in March 1992. Vietnamese cooperation was measured in four specific areas: 1. Recovery and identification of remains; 2. Access to documents; 3. Trilateral cooperation (U.S./Vietnam/Laos for border cases); and 4. Support for field operations/investigations.

The Vietnamese knew what the U.S. measured and understood cooperation would, in the end, get them the normalization and trade they wanted. Vietnam decided to cooperate so that by February 1994, President Clinton could lift the trade embargo on Vietnam. This action further encouraged cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnam to discover the fate of American POW/MIAs remaining unaccounted for after the war. Clinton also believed improved business relations between the U.S. and Vietnam benefited both countries.

Once the trade embargo was lifted, Vietnamese cooperation got even better. The cooperation was observed, documented, and evaluated by Joint Task Force Full Accounting (JTF-FA) and its forward detachment working in Hanoi, Vietnam. See Appendix I-IV for pictures depicting the JTF-FA cooperation. The Defense Department formed

JTF-FA in 1992. Its mission was to resolve the status of missing servicemen. They oversaw all investigations and recovery missions in Vietnam. Their main goal was recovery and transfer of remains to the U.S. for identification and eventual return to their families.

Initially, Vietnam seemed slow to provide documents dealing with the POW/MIA issue; however, with continued pressure and increasing trade with the U.S., Hanoi gradually provided reports, opened a Joint Documents Center, while continuing support for recovery operations across the country. See Appendix II for depiction of operations. At the same time, they provided amnesty to witnesses the U.S. wished to interview. The Central Intelligence Agency reported, "Vietnam has become more cooperative in receiving questions concerning U.S. personal reported as possible prisoners of war or missing in action in the Vietnam War. The government has made several important gestures including:

Turning over more remains and material evidence than during the preceding 13 years. See Appendix III for picture of turning over remains and material evidence.

Participating, for the first time, in joint investigations of site where American planes crashed or missing service members were last seen

Beginning in 1990, giving U.S. experts access to military museums and archives containing records detailing Vietnamese investigation of American losses.

The areas highlighted in the report directly align to the measures the U.S. evaluated when assessing Vietnamese cooperation. Additionally, by the time a normalization decision was made, the Vietnamese had turned over close to 30,000 documents related to 820 cases. At the same time, they provided over 2,000 photographs and opened a Joint Documents Center where U.S. and Vietnamese investigators could work.

Recovery operations done by JTF-FA became a key measure of Vietnamese cooperation. Formal repatriation ceremonies were held in Hanoi and Hawaii after each recovery operation as depicted in Appendix 7. JTF-FA conducted missions five to six times a year in Vietnam to excavate sites, conduct investigations, and recover bodies of missing American servicemen. Each mission lasted thirty to forty-five days. Site locations ranged from mountainous terrain, farmland, and even underwater. Recovery sites were controlled just like archeological digs. Any remains of servicemen found were turned over after each operation for identification by the U.S. Army Central Identification Lab in Hawaii (CILHI).

Showing cooperation, the Vietnamese created the Vietnamese Office Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP). This office staffed by members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the military, and the Ministry of the Interior worked with JTF-FA solving cases. Many of the Vietnamese assigned to the work lost relatives in the war. One official, Senior Colonel Tran Bien, when interviewed on why he supported recovery operations said simply, "it is the right thing to do." Appendix 1-4 depict pictures of Vietnamese support to recovery operations under the VNOSMP. Note: Senior Colonel Bien died in a helicopter crash during a recovery operation in April 2001 killing sixteen Vietnamese and Americans.

As cooperation continued, the U.S. successfully recovered and identified missing servicemen. For example, because of cooperation, cases like Captain Charles Barnes were solved. See Appendix V for picture of Captain Barnes. Captain Barnes became MIA after his aircraft failed to arrive at Da Nang, Vietnam. JTF-FA led multiple investigations in 1993, 1999, and in 2000 when his crash